

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

11020 Sun Center Drive #200, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTICE**

concerning

**AMMONIA EFFLUENT LIMITS IN WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR:**

STANISLAUS COUNTY

CITY OF TURLOCK WATER QUALITY CONTROL FACILITY  
NPDES PERMIT NO. CA0078948

SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY

CITY OF MANTECA WASTEWATER QUALITY CONTROL FACILITY  
NPDES PERMIT NO. CA0081558

NEVADA COUNTY

NEVADA COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT NO. 1,  
LAKE WILDWOOD WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT  
NPDES PERMIT NO. CA0077828

NEVADA COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT NO. 1,  
LAKE OF THE PINES WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT  
NPDES PERMIT NO. CA0081612

NEVADA COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT NO. 1,  
CASCADE SHORES WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT  
NPDES Permit NO. CA0083241

TEHAMA COUNTY

BELL-CARTER OLIVE COMPANY, INC. AND CITY OF CORNING  
BELL-CARTER INDUSTRIAL WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT  
NPDES Permit NO. CA0083721

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) has previously issued notices informing the public and interested persons that the Board will be considering renewal of NPDES permits for the above facilities at hearings scheduled for the Board's 16/17 April 2015 meeting. The Board hereby provides supplemental notice to inform the public and interested persons that Board staff is recommending revised water quality-based effluent limitations for ammonia be imposed in these permits for the reasons specified herein.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) recently published national recommended water quality criteria for the protection of aquatic life from the toxic effects of ammonia in freshwater (the "2013 Criteria"). The 2013 Criteria is an update to USEPA's 1999 recommended water quality criteria for ammonia (the "1999 Criteria"), and varies based on pH and temperature. Although the 2013 Criteria reflects the latest scientific knowledge on the toxicity of ammonia to certain freshwater aquatic life, including new toxicity data on sensitive freshwater mussels in the Family Unionidae, the species tested for development of the 2013 Criteria may not be present in some Central Valley waterways. The 2013 Criteria document therefore states that, "*unionid mussel species are not prevalent in some waters, such as the arid west ...*" and provides that, "*In the case of ammonia, where a state demonstrates that mussels are not present on a site-specific basis, the recalculation procedure may be used to remove the mussel species from the national criteria dataset to better represent the species present at the site.*"

For these reasons studies are currently underway to determine how the latest scientific knowledge on the toxicity of ammonia reflected in the 2013 Criteria can be implemented in the Central Valley Region as part of a Basin Planning effort to adopt nutrient and ammonia objectives.

The Central Valley Water Board's Basin Plans set narrative water quality objectives for toxicity that prohibit the discharge of substances in concentrations that produce detrimental physiological responses in human, plant, animal, or aquatic life. To interpret these narrative objectives, the Central Valley Water Board often relies upon USEPA's nationally-recommended criteria, using these criteria to develop water quality-based effluent limits to regulate the discharge of ammonia. The above permits, as initially proposed, included ammonia effluent limitations calculated using the 2013 Criteria. However, at the 16/17 April 2015 Board meeting, the Central Valley Water Board will consider adopting permits that contain ammonia effluent limits based on the 1999 Criteria instead of the 2013 Criteria for the reason stated above.

For illustrative purposes, the table below compares ammonia effluent limits developed using the 2013 criteria and 1999 criteria for each Facility.

Facility	Averaging Period	Effluent Limits 2013 Criteria (mg/L - as N)	Effluent Limits 1999 Criteria (mg/L - as N)
City of Turlock Regional Water Quality Control Facility	Average Monthly	1.6	0.9
	Average Weekly	2.7	1.9
City of Manteca Wastewater Quality Control Facility	Average Monthly (1 April - 30 November)	0.9	1.6
	Average Weekly (1 April - 30 November)	2.9	3.1
	Average Monthly (1 December - 31 March)	1.8	1.6
	Average Weekly (1 December - 31 March)	4.3	3.1
Nevada County Sanitation District No. 1, Lake Wildwood Wastewater Treatment Plant	Average Monthly	1.8	1.8
	Average Weekly	3.9	3.9
Nevada County Sanitation District No. 1, Lake of the Pines Wastewater Treatment Plant	Average Monthly	1.9	1.9
	Average Weekly	4.1	4.1
Nevada County Sanitation District No. 1, Cascade Shores Wastewater Treatment Plant	Average Monthly	1.6	1.3
	Average Weekly	3.3	4.1
Bell-Carter Olive Company, Inc. and the City of Corning, Bell- Carter Industrial Wastewater Treatment Plant	Average Monthly	15	15
	Average Weekly	44	44

Persons wishing to comment on this issue shall submit testimony, evidence, if any, and/or comments to the Central Valley Water Board via email to **RB5S-NPDES-Comments@waterboards.ca.gov** no later than **5:00 p.m.** on **2 April 2015**. Written evidence or comments submitted after **5:00 p.m.** on **2 April 2015** will not be accepted and will not be incorporated into the administrative record absent a ruling by the Chair. Any party requesting to submit late materials must demonstrate good cause for the late submission, and the Chair must find that accepting the late submission will not prejudice the Central Valley Water Board or any Designated Party.

Anyone having questions regarding the hearing item should contact Jim Marshall at (916) 464-4772 or [James.Marshall@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:James.Marshall@waterboards.ca.gov).

Original Signed By \_\_\_\_\_  
ADAM LAPUTZ, Assistant Executive Officer

3 March 2015